

The Proposed Plan for Cleaning Up Residential Soils within the VBI-70 Superfund Site

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I have been with this project since EPA's VBI-70 initial inclusion of the Cole and Clayton neighborhoods in the Fall of 1998. I helped to create the CEASE organization designed to represent community. In fact, I continue to sit at the CEASE table. My participation in this project has been long, busy, and intense, having served hundreds of volunteer hours toward the cause of a cleaner, safer neighborhood for the children and families of the Cole neighborhood. At this juncture of the process, I am excited and hopeful for a better day, a healthier day for the residents impacted by the conditions described as the VBI-70 Site.

I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 4 OF THE PROPOSED PLAN AND THE COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN AS DESCRIBED IN THE PROPOSED PLAN DOCUMENT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOIL REMOVAL LEVELS AS FOLLOWS: I DESIRE A SOIL REMEDIATION LEVEL OF LEAD AT 400 PPM OR HIGHER; and I DESIRE ARSENIC REMOVAL LEVEL AT 128 PPM.

(These two soil remediation levels are in agreement with the CEASE position of Clean-up.)

FURTHER, I SUPPORT THE PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM. The health education program would include both individual and community education to raise awareness about soil pica behavior, multiple sources of lead and arsenic, strategies to reduce soil pica behavior and to reduce or avoid exposure to lead and arsenic from sources other than soil, and the health effect of exposure. The Community Health Program would address as many sources of lead as practicable. Another attractive portion of this Plan is that the children in these neighborhoods will be tested for lead and arsenic at no cost to the families. I especially appreciate the inclusion of the residents in the health education efforts, striving for a cultural approach to the process. I see that a good faith effort is currently being undertaken by EPA in that the process of testing the children is underway, with community and many necessary organizations at the table. Not only are they providing the much needed funding for the project but they are working with existing service providers, establishing partnerships that will ensure the success of all efforts. This good faith effort provides me with the assurance that the Plan (Alternative 4) proposed by EPA is at this time the best of all alternatives, leaving

flexibility that the Plan will respond to situations relating to the project as they occur, especially those findings from the testing of the children.

FURTHER IN SUPPORT OF ALTERNATIVE 4: With the recent coverage and outreach of the soil contamination situation, many residents have signed up for soil sampling. Alternative 4 allows for soil sampling program availability for those not yet sampled, as well as soil removal.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE AFOREMENTIONED CONDITIONS, WHICH INCLUDES LEAD LEVEL CLEAN-UP AT 400PPM, I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 4 OF THE PROPOSAL PLAN.

I ALSO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM AS DESCRIBED IN THE PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE REASONS STATED ABOVE.